



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**CONGRESSMAN PHIL CRANE REQUESTS FUNDING TO DEAL WITH THE WAUCONDA WATER CONTAMINATION**

(WASHINGTON) Today, Congressman Phil Crane (R-Illinois-8) sent a letter requesting \$6 million in emergency assistance to help the residents who are affected by the contaminated water in and around the Hillcrest neighborhood in Wauconda. The funding would be used to increase the groundwater testing and monitoring, and to implement a study to determine possible clean drinking water sources available to residents.

The letter, which was sent to Speaker Dennis Hastert, Majority Leader Tom DeLay, Rep. Bill Young, Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, and Rep. James Walsh, Chairman of the Subcommittee on VA-HUD Appropriations, requested the funding through the FY 2005 VA-HUD appropriations legislation. (The text of the letter is below.)

Crane is continuing to work with officials in Washington to find a short and long term solution to the contaminated water in Wauconda. Congressman Crane, a resident of Wauconda said, **“All residents in the contaminated neighborhoods deserve to have clean, safe water. We must work together to find a safe drinking water supply for the long term. I am committed to working with the necessary government agencies to make this happen. Now that Congress is back in session, I have submitted this request so we can limit the unnecessary delays by pursuing every avenue.”**

Crane also expressed his continuing frustration with the slow movement on the part of the U.S. EPA, especially as it relates to the testing of wells. In the letter, Crane wrote: **“Since the last round of testing, little has been done to provide residents with clean drinking water or to increase the speed at which testing is being done. There has been little focus on examining a long-term solution... When we are dealing with one of life’s most basic elements, it is imperative that action is taken with a steadfast pace.”**

In addition to the funding request, Crane has placed information on his website regarding the situation. New information will be added to the website as it becomes available. ([www.house.gov/crane](http://www.house.gov/crane))